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deals with the spirit and with the life of man and with the essence of beauty. It is literally the only book of its kind in English. And by way of supererogation, it is a brilliant piece of printing, delightful to eye and touch, and furnished with thirty superb reproductions of ageless masterpieces. This is a work to study by heart and come back to often, of works on art (and the word is said advisedly) the most important in the last decade, and the most enchanting of more than half that time.

Mr. Howells lays more stress on his age than any one else would like to. Sometimes, especially in the closing essay,* he allows himself the wise saws as well as the modern instances; oftener he just gently sighs for the youthful hose. There is no one living, perhaps, to whom life has been so kindly as to him, softening, mellowing, enriching bringing the great wheel of a man's mortal years around in so ample and complete a circle. The early records of travel, those impressions of Italy recorded, as he reminds us, forty years ago, were quicker and more poignant, but these are blander, serener. The delicate architectural drawings which adorn them are rather like the soft low relief of the style itself. Is the book Mr. Howells's little revenge, his Quip Modest, for "The American Scene"?

The collection† of Mr. Keppel is a Paradise of dainty devices, a mine of priceless and imperishable delights. He has gleaned afar and offers with both hands out of the stores of his profound connoisseurship—from exquisite French manuscript illuminations, from delicate Italian engravings and from matchless German and Dutch prints. His personal influence has unlocked foreign treasures, and the brilliant examples they yield are beautiful still in reproduction. His personal charm carries off with a grace the tenuous thread of essay. Those who buy it to give away will be tempted to keep it for themselves.

* "Seven English Cities." By W. D. Howells. New York and London: Harper & Brothers, 1909.

† "Christmas in Art: The Nativity as Depicted by Artists of the Fifteenth and Sixteenth Centuries." By Frederick Keppel. New York: Duffield & Co., 1909.